

Claims:

1. A method for evaluating insurance policy data corresponding to a proposed renewal policy for binding an associated insurance carrier and renewing the policy under the authority of a field agent geographically remote from the carrier, comprising the steps of:

receiving a Web page from an insurance carrier including policy data corresponding to a renewal policy, said policy data being identified by an eligibility determining process of the carrier;

updating as necessary said policy data by inputting data corresponding to attributes of a subscriber on one or more Web pages by the field agent until receipt of a bind Web page indicating the proposed renewal policy for the subscriber is in condition such that the associated insurance carrier can be bound to the terms and conditions of the proposed renewal policy; and

binding said associated insurance carrier by the field agent by entering a bind indication on said bind Web page and transmitting said bind Web page to the carrier.

2. The method of claim 1 further including receiving one or more Bind Confirmation Web pages including acknowledgement that said associated insurance carrier has been bound to the terms and conditions of a renewal policy reflecting the bind Web page.

3. A method for renewing a policy to be bound by an insurance carrier comprising the steps of:

providing a field agent with policy data reflecting a policy eligible for renewal, wherein said policy data is identified by an eligibility determining process;

providing the field agent with predetermined questions selected so as to minimize financial risk to the policy carrier of being contractually bound to policy terms unfavorable to said policy carrier;

answering said predetermined questions by said field agent; and

5 binding an insurance carrier to the terms and conditions of a renewal policy reflecting said answers, wherein said binding is accomplished by a decision process undertaken by said field agent without including external underwriting and rating processes.

10 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the steps of providing a field agent with policy data, providing the field agent with predetermined questions, answering said predetermined questions, and binding an insurance carrier, are accomplished by successive receipt, update, and transmission of a sequence of Web pages.

15 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said receipt and transmission of a sequence of Web pages occurs between a personal computer operated by the field agent and an insurance company Web server computer, wherein said personal computer and said Web server computer are interconnected by an connection.

20 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the total time required between said step of providing a field agent with policy data and said step of binding an insurance carrier is not more than five minutes.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said policy and said predetermined questions are unrelated to insurance and said insurance carrier is any company issuing said policy.

25 8. The method of claim 5, wherein said Web pages are information screens and said Internet connection is a data network connection.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the field agent is one of said policy subscriber or an employer responsible for said policy subscriber.

5 10. A method for renewing a policy via Internet connections between a central data memory and a remote data memory, comprising the steps of:

generating in said remote data memory a first Web page including data identifying one or more eligible policies to be renewed, wherein said data has been previously identified by applying eligibility criteria to a data set representing a group of policies;

10 generating in said central data memory a request for policy data relating one of said one or more eligible renewal policies;

generating in the central data memory and transmitting over a network one or more second Web pages arranged to include said requested renewal policy data along with provision for inputting update data;

15 receiving, displaying, updating in said remote memory, and transmitting from said remote memory, said one or more second Web pages wherein said receiving, displaying, updating and transmitting is accomplished by the agent; and

20 binding the policy issuer to a policy associated with said renewal policy data, wherein said binding is accomplished by a decision process undertaken independently by said field agent without including external underwriting and risk assessment processes, and by transmitting to said central data memory a third Web page including a binding indication data.

25 11. The method of claim 10, prior to the step of binding the policy issuer, further comprising the step of:

transmitting update information relating to said policy to said central data memory over the network where said update information is screened to form a completeness and accuracy response; and

transmitting said completeness and accuracy response to said remote data memory; and

displaying said completeness and accuracy response as part of a Web page.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the total time required between said transmitting said policy data step and said binding the policy issuer step not more than five minutes.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the policy issuer is an insurance carrier and the policy is a renewal insurance contract having terms under which an insurance carrier issuing the policy is legally bound.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the field agent is one of said policy subscriber or an employer responsible for said policy subscriber.

15. A policy renewal system for renewing a policy comprising:  
a network;  
an eligible renewal policy generator for generating policy data for at least one renewal policy;  
a remote data display configured for displaying said policy data in a form readable by a field agent; and

said policy generator and said remote data display connected to said network and configured to transmit said policy data over the network for display on said remote data display, wherein said field agent reading said displayed policy data evaluates said policy data and legally binds a policy

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